



Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Water Quality

August 23, 2004

Number 04-33

California Performance Review – Major changes proposed including restructuring environmental management

– The Governor's *California Performance Review* includes a proposed restructuring of the regulatory functions related to water quality. The wastewater permitting, standards development, and planning functions of the State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Boards would transfer to a division under the new *Department of Environmental Protection* (currently Cal EPA). The water rights functions of the State Board would move to the *Department of Natural Resources*.

One goal of these rearrangements is to address the “overlap in jurisdictional functions within Cal-EPA”, including that between DTSC and the Regional Boards. Another goal is to better integrate environmental protection efforts: The CPR findings note:

Environmental decisions do not reflect an integrated understanding of different types of pollution. Because each board or commission is responsible for a specific type of pollution, decision-makers do not focus on how their choices affect other areas of the environment. For instance, MTBE, a gasoline additive created to reduce air pollution, resulted in severe water pollution in the Santa Monica and Lake Tahoe basins.

The proposed *Department of Environmental Protection* would include the following divisions: Air Quality; Water Quality; Pollution Prevention, Recycling and Waste Management; Site Cleanup and Emergency Response; and Pesticide Regulation. The Division of Water Quality would assume the water quality functions of the SWRCB and the Regional Boards; as well as the Drinking Water Branch and the Shell Fish Monitoring Program transferred from DHS.

For environmental compliance inspections the CPR goal is to establish a “risk-based, multi-media inspection protocol” to be implemented by January 2006. The report will be the subject of hearings and most major changes will require legislative action. *CPR report:* <http://cpr.ca.gov/>

Copper in Runoff — Partnership posts work plans – As indicated in the LA River/Ballona Creek TMDLs, copper in roadway runoff is an increasingly important issue. The TMDLs proposed reductions in copper loadings of around 80%. The TMDLs suggest:

The permittees could sponsor legislative actions with state and federal agencies to pursue the development of alternative materials for brake pads. The use of alternative materials for brake pads would help to reduce the discharge of metals in all watersheds. Just as the phase out of leaded gasoline resulted in the gradual decline of lead concentrations in the environment, a phase out of copper brake linings would also be expected to reduce the amount of copper in storm water runoff.

The Brake Pad Partnership has been working for several years to address brakepad and copper issues. They have posted a *Draft Work Plan for Watershed Modeling Study*. The manufacturers involved with the Partnership have agreed to voluntarily introduce new brake pads if current brake pads are shown to be causing water quality problems.

<http://www.suscon.org/brakepad/documents.asp>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>